

the State under section 20106(b) of the Violent Crime Control and Law Enforcement Act of 1994 (42 U.S.C. 13706(b)).

(3) REALLOCATION OF FUNDS.—Any funds that are not allocated for failure to comply with this section shall be reallocated to States that comply with this section.

#### 60TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE BATTLE OF THE BULGE

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of H.J. Res. 110, which has been received from the House.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (H.J. Res. 110) recognizing the 60th anniversary of the Battle of the Bulge during World War II.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution.

Mr. SESSIONS. I ask unanimous consent that the joint resolution be read the third time and passed, the preamble be agreed to, the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table, and any statement related to the joint resolution be printed in the RECORD.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The joint resolution (H.J. Res. 110) was read the third time and passed.

The preamble was agreed to.

#### PREMATURITY AWARENESS MONTH

Mr. SESSIONS. I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of S. Res. 476, introduced earlier today by Senator ALEXANDER.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 476) supporting the goals, activities and ideals of National Prematurity Awareness Month.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution.

#### PREMATURITY AWARENESS MONTH

Mr. ALEXANDER. Mr. President, I rise today to discuss the increasing number of babies born too early. The March of Dimes has designated November as Prematurity Awareness Month to draw attention to the growing, costly and serious public health problem of preterm birth. My colleague, Senator DODD, and I have introduced a resolution supporting this effort and look forward to swift approval in the Senate.

Nationwide, over 480,000 babies were born prematurely in 2002. In my own State of Tennessee, one of every seven babies born in 2002 was born preterm, and the rate of preterm births in Tennessee has risen more than 9 percent since 1992.

Earlier this year, the Subcommittee on Children and Families, which I chair, held a hearing to learn about the

devastating effects of preterm birth and what our government agencies and private organizations are doing to combat this crisis. We heard the inspirational story of Kelley Bolton Jordan and her daughter, Whitney, from Memphis, Tennessee. Whitney was born 3½ months early and weighed just 1 lb. 10 oz. Imagine a leg so small it could fit through a wedding ring.

Whitney spent 3 grueling months in intensive care. She is now a healthy, happy 3 year-old and has no repercussions from her early birth—other babies are not as lucky. Preterm birth takes a severe toll on America's families and strains our health care system. Each year, 100,000 children develop health problems because of their early births, including cerebral palsy and vision and hearing loss. And preterm birth is the leading cause of death in the first month of life.

With over half the causes of preterm birth unknown, more research is desperately needed. That's why I plan to re-introduce "the PREEMIE Act" and hope that the Senate can pass this legislation in the 109th Congress.

I commend the March of Dimes for its dedication in working toward a day when babies and their families no longer have to face the devastating consequences of premature birth. If we work together to focus public and private resources on this problem, we can decrease the number of premature births in every state.

Mr. DODD. Mr. President, I draw attention to the growing problem of premature birth. As a sponsor of the PREEMIE Act, with my colleague Senator ALEXANDER, I have heard the stories about the strain a premature birth places on families, as well as the lifelong health problems many preterm children face.

Nationwide, 1 out of every 8 babies is born too early. In my own State of Connecticut, 1 of every 10 babies born in 2002 was preterm and the rate of preterm births in Connecticut has risen more than 11 percent since 1992.

Senator ALEXANDER and I are introducing a resolution to raise awareness of this public health crisis. As part of their 5-year campaign designed to use the combined power of awareness, education, and research to significantly decrease the number of premature births in the United States, the March of Dimes has designated November as Prematurity Awareness Month. I am pleased to be supporting this campaign.

I urge my colleagues to find out about the toll of premature births in their states and to work together to solve this problem. I hope we can move the PREEMIE Act quickly in the 109th Congress in order to expand the Government's efforts to reduce the rates of preterm birth.

Mr. SESSIONS. I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table and any statements relating to this matter be printed in the RECORD.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The resolution (S. Res. 476) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

The resolution, with its preamble, reads as follows:

#### S. RES. 476

Whereas preterm birth is a serious and growing problem;

Whereas, between 1982 and 2002, the rate of preterm birth increased 27 percent;

Whereas, in 2002, more than 480,000 babies were born prematurely in the United States;

Whereas 25 percent of all babies that die in the first month of life were born preterm;

Whereas premature infants are 14 times more likely to die in the first year of life;

Whereas premature babies who survive may suffer lifelong consequences, including cerebral palsy, mental retardation, chronic lung disease, and vision and hearing loss;

Whereas preterm birth and low birthweight are a significant financial burden in health care;

Whereas, in 2002, the estimated charges for hospital stays for infants with a diagnosis of preterm birth or low birthweight were \$15,500,000,000, a 12 percent increase since 2001;

Whereas the average lifetime medical costs of a premature baby are conservatively estimated at \$500,000;

Whereas the cause of approximately half of all preterm births is unknown;

Whereas women who smoke during pregnancy are twice as likely as women who do not smoke during pregnancy to give birth to a low birthweight baby, and babies born to women who smoke during pregnancy weigh, on average, 200 grams less than babies born to women who do not smoke during pregnancy; and

Whereas to reduce the rates of preterm labor and delivery more research is needed on the underlying causes of preterm delivery, prevention of preterm birth so that babies are born full-term, and treatments improving outcomes for infants born prematurely: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That the Senate recognizes during the month of November, 2004, activities and programs that promote awareness of and solutions to the dangers of preterm birth across the United States.

#### IMPROVING EDUCATION RESULTS FOR CHILDREN WITH DISABILITIES ACT OF 2004—CONFERENCE REPORT

Mr. SESSIONS. I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the conference report to accompany H.R. 1350, the IDEA bill, that the conference report be agreed to, the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table, and any statements be printed in the RECORD.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. GREGG. Mr. President, I am pleased that we are now considering the conference report on the Individuals with Disabilities Education Improvement Act. This bill reauthorizes IDEA, our Federal law governing special education services for children with disabilities.

As we close in on the 30-year anniversary of the Federal role in special education, I think it important to highlight where we were, where we are and